Hotline

The MCI Hotline is published quarterly by MCI providing you with up-to-date information. Feedback from the Hotline identified the need to expand our distribution list. Although distribution of the Hotline goes to each RUC, many Marines do not receive important MCI updates contained in these newsletters. In an effort to bridge this information gap, the Hotline will now be included in the packing list of every MCI and included on MCI's web page.

Deputy Director's Corner

MCI continues to provide new products and services to Marines across the globe. In the last fiscal year, we maintained a near record level of enrollments. MCI focuses on providing quality training and educational products as well as student-centered services. Despite various day-to-day challenges, we hope we are meeting the expectations of the vast majority of our students and their commanders.

We continue to get questions from many corners of the world about web enrollments, unit verification reports (UVR), individual records check, learning resource centers (LRC), interactive courseware/tests, and new products available at MCI. This newsletter is one way we try to communicate with our students. The MCI web site is another vehicle for passing information to our customers. Additionally, we had articles published in the Gazette and Marine Times. MCI strives to visit each major base/station during the year. When the MCI major command visit team comes to your base or station, take the time to visit us and ask all your training and education questions.

In the last quarter, MCI visited the east coast bases and stations, and made a trip to numerous Marine units in Europe. We are already planning our annual trip to West Pac commands and Quantico this fall. We still need to raise the awareness of what training and educational materials and student services we have available to you, and ensure you have access to those products and services.

Some recent initiatives that MCI has been working on are sprinkled throughout this newsletter. If your base doesn't have a LRC, we have been offering a limited number of these interactive courses (such as 0367A, *Marine Marksman* and 0385A*, Land Navigation*) in CDROM format with a traditional paper exam. We support various commander's libraries with BLT 1/1 deploying this summer with an extensive MCI program to support their time underway. We had the opportunity to restock our shelves with useful training materials such as the Battle Drill Guide for Infantry and FAC Tactical Pocket Checklist (FAC Handbook). MCI has also developed and published the new Marine Corps Common Skills Handbooks and exams. We focused on a long-term PME plan to update each distance education program over the next several years so we can provide training and education opportunities to you anywhere, anytime.

I still need the assistance of students and their commanders to complete the courses they are enrolled in. We need to make sure each student receives the full benefit of learning the course material and gets full credit for promotion. We have to be vigilant in our efforts to assist students to complete their course materials. The UVR provides a tool to the commander to monitor each Marine's status assigned to his unit.

I look forward to seeing and talking to many of you during our upcoming major command visits.

Semper Fidelis,

Glenn E. Gearhard
LtCol USMC

Amphibious Warfare School Distance Education Program (AWSDEP) Revision and Publication

AWSDEP, Phase One (8510) is open for enrollment. This program replaces the 8500 Phase One program. 8510 consists of three courses: 8511, *Warfighting Principles and Concepts*; 8512, *Command and Control*; and 8513, *Marine Corps Planning Process*. AWSDEP, Phase I is the PME requirement for all chief warrant officers 3 and captains who have not previously completed the resident or nonresident career-level PME and is a prerequisite for Phase Two. Lieutenants may enroll in the AWSDEP Phase One 8510. Completion of Phase One is required for captains who attend a sister service resident PME.

Students currently enrolled in the AWSDEP 8500 program will have until 30 May 2003 to complete and they do not have to transition to the revised AWSDEP 8510 program. Those who have not completed 8500 by that date will be automatically disenrolled without receiving credit.

MCI will support the AWSDEP 8500 with material until on-hand stocks are depleted, but NLT 30 May 2003.

Marine Corps Common Skills (MCCS) Handbook

The newly developed Marine Corps Common Skills (MCCS) Handbook will be available 13 August 2001 at MCLB Albany, Georgia. The handbook covers Marine Corps individual training standards (ITSs). ITSs represent a uniform way for Marines to train to a specific standard. In essence, ITSs establish the training requirements for all Marines in the same occupational field, military occupational specialty, or billet. The MCCS handbook contains ITSs that apply to all Marines and describes entry-level indoctrination and skills common to all. These ITSs provide a foundation that unit commanders, functional learning center directors, and distance learning developers build training packages for individual Marines as part of unit training plans or formal courses of instruction. The handbooks will be distributed to Marine Corps Recruit Depots and The Basic School. Units within the Marine Corps must order the MCCS Handbook through the Marine Corps Publications Distribution System. The written test will also be available for ordering through MCLB Albany in early September.

How to Contact MCI	
Web site	**www.mci.usmc.mil**
E-mail	**ombmcissd@mbw.usmc.mil**
Phone	**1-800-MCI-USMC/DSN 325-7438**
Postal Mail	**912 Charles Poor Street SE Washington Navy Yard DC 20391-5680**
Visit Us	**Building 220, Lejeune Hall, Washington Navy Yard**

Unit Verification Report (UVR)

The UVR is a valuable management tool for commanders and training NCOs. It provides enrollment data for your Marines and allows you to monitor the student's progress.

Is this report working for you? If not, what types of problems are you having? Do you know your password? Can you review the records for your Marines? If these or any other questions need to be answered, please contact the staff NCO of the Student Services Division on 1-800-MCI-USMC, DSN 325-7438, or commercial (202) 685-7438. If we can't answer your questions, we will get the answers for you.

Marine in the Spotlight

This quarter's Marine in the Spotlight is Corporal Andres H. Martinez, Small Computer System Specialist, 4066, Information System Management Office, Marine Corps Institute, Washington Navy Yard DC. Cpl Martinez was born in Tucson, Arizona and enlisted in the Marine Corps on 28 April 1998. After attending recruit training in Parris Island, South Carolina and Computer Systems Specialist School at the Marine Corps Communications and Electronics School in Twentynine Palms, California, Cpl Martinez was assigned to 4th Marines Headquarters Company, Communications Platoon, Okinawa, Japan from December 1998 to November 2000. He served as a computer technician and data chief. He also deployed to Thailand in support of exercise Cobra Gold 99 and participated in exercise Ulchi Focus Lense 99 and 00. In December 2000, Cpl Martinez reported for duty with MCI Company. He is currently a martial arts instructor for MCI and is serving as Marine Barracks' resident expert on its computer disaster recovery system.

The Marine Armor Noncommissioned Officer Program (MANCOP) Opens at your Local Learning Resource Center

MANCOP was created based on information taught at the U.S Army Armor Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course (Armor BNCOC). The target audience is geared for lance corporals and sergeants with MOS 1812. The program is organized into four phases: pre-deployment (gunnery and special operations), ship-borne (gunnery, special operations, and maintenance), pre-combat (tactics, gunnery, and maintenance), and combat operations (tactics). This program allows junior Marines unable to attend the resident school the opportunity to train to become tank commanders. The focus is using interactive multimedia instruction (IMI) so junior Marines can work at his or her own pace and train for the task that a Marine tank commander might experience in a typical Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) deployment.

MCI will make the course available to units in CDROM version (course number 1816) soon.

Infantry Squad Leader, Squad Tactics 0383A Opens for Enrollment

A revision of MCI course 0383A, *Infantry Squad Leader, Squad Tactics*, is available for enrollment. This revision integrates METT-TSL Mission, Enemy, Terrain and Weather, Troops and Fire Support, Time, Space, and Logistics) into the situation estimate process. The course provides instruction in combat planning, fire support, and offensive and defensive operations at the squad level. The course also provides situational problems to increase the student's knowledge of problem solving and decisionmaking. MCI 0383A is designed for lance corporals through sergeants in MOS 0311.

Need CDs?

If you or your unit does not have access to a learning resource center (LRC) and you are interested in taking one of the following IMI courses, contact MCI Operations at DSN 325-7620, commercial (202) 685-7620, or e-mail HeritageRP@MBW.USMC.MIL.

0367	*Marine Marksman*
0385	*Land Navigation*
1320A	*Fundamentals of Diesel Engines*
1816	*Marine Armor NCO Program*

Until more LRCs are fielded, we are offering a limited number of course CDs with traditional paper exams. These CDs are an excellent resource for a commander's library.

See the Distance Learning Center's web site (http://www.tecom.usmc.mil/dlc/) for a complete listing of LRCs.

Forward Air Controller Tactical Pocket Checklist (FAC Handbook)

The FAC Handbook, which provides checklists on performing the duties of a forward air controller, has recently been revised and is available as a job aid through MCI by contacting MCI Operations, 912 Charles Poor Street SE, Washington Navy Yard DC 20391-5680, or by calling 1-800-USMC-MCI. This handbook can also be downloaded, printed, and customized to meet unit or individual needs from our website: www.mci.usmc.mil. The target audience for this handbook is forward air controllers, air officers, reconnaissance units, ANGLICO units, and FAC schools at EWTGPAC/LANT.

HTTP vs HTTPS and MCI Online

MCI Online users may have noticed that MCI Online web pages are accessible using two different addresses: http://www.mci.usmc.mil and https://www.mci.usmc.mil. Users may have also noticed that at times the web site is only accessible through the https://www.mci.usmc.mil address and not http://www.mci.usmc.mil. This article explains the reasons behind the two addresses and why users should attempt both if they are unable to access MCI Online.

Web servers and browsers communicate using HTTP, short for hypertext transfer protocol, a sort of language between computers. Web pages are accessed using an uniform resource locator (URL) or web address which typically begins with the letters "http." The HTTP protocol is the way most web pages are accessed for those pages that typically don't involve the transfer of personal or confidential information such as SSNs, DOBs and credit card numbers.

Another protocol or language used to communicate with web servers is the HTTPS protocol or secure-hypertext transfer protocol. This protocol encrypts all communications between the web server and browser and is sometimes referred to as secure socket layer (SSL). All communication involving student records and enrollments on the MCI Online website is secured using the HTTPS protocol.

In an effort to increase security and decrease the vulnerability of U.S. Marine Corps web sites, firewalls, which are network security devices, have been installed throughout the Marine Corps. These devices have the ability to filter network communications and block specific IP addresses. Because of the possibility of one protocol being open and another being closed at various, unpredictable times, it is recommended that a user experiencing trouble try both methods of accessing MCI Online; HTTP - http://www.mci.usmc.mil and HTTPS - https://www.mci.usmc.mil.

Visit our Home Page at http://www.mci.usmc.mil